

## REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and discussion presented herein.

1. Amendment of Claims.

The Applicant has amended Claims 48-53 by adding limitations that distinguish the invention over the references cited by the Examiner, as well as the references of record herein. Claims 54-59 have been canceled. No new matter has been added, and support for the amendments can be found in the following portions of the specification:

(a) FIG. 7 shows the segments 48b radially spun to the outside of the firelog so that their faces are oriented radially outward from the center of the log.

(b) Page 12, lines 3-7 state:

"Because cardboard segments 48b are compressed circumferentially around firelog 90, they open or expand with heat when burned, and the corrugations channel oxygen throughout segments 48a of firelog 90. Cardboard segments 48b are more tightly twisted in the center of firelog 90, increasing its burn time."

(c) Page 21, lines 6-9 state:

"This heating propagates uniformly and adheres segments 48b together in a generally interlocking planar fashion. This interlocking planar adhesion of segments 48b gives finished firelog 90 additional cohesive strength with no cold joints."

(d) Page 22, lines 3-6 state:

"The centrifugal force urges segments radially outward to the periphery of firelog 90 so as to lay segments 48b "flat" along the outer surface of firelog 90, as shown in

FIG. 7, and thus, better resembling genuine wood bark (FIG. 20) as firelog 90 is burned."

2. Rejection of Claims 48-59.

Claims 48-59 were rejected as being obvious in view of the combined teachings of U.S. Patent No. 2,916,365 to Smith and U.S. Patent No. 4,769,044 to Cornwell for the reasons stated by the Examiner in the Office Action.

In response, the Applicant has reviewed the cited references and carefully considered the grounds for rejection. Accordingly, the Applicant has amended the pending claims to, instead of casting them in terms of a mixture of waxed cardboard segments and paper segments that forms a firestarter material, recite an artificial firelog material. Such amendments are made without prejudice to later prosecution of the original claims and without disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Each of the pending claims, as amended, recites an artificial firelog material comprising a plurality of waxed corrugated cardboard segments wherein:

(a) the segments are compressed circumferentially in relation to a central longitudinal axis of the firelog; and

(b) the segments have surfaces that are positioned radially outward in relation to the central longitudinal axis of the firelog.

None of the references cited by the Examiner, or the other references of record, singly or in combination, teach, suggest or provide motivation or incentive for an artificial firelog material having such a configuration. In addition, an artificial firelog having this configuration is substantial departure from conventional artificial firelogs.

Conventional artificial firelogs use segments of cardboard, paper or other combustible materials that are compressed or extruded. In a conventional compressed or extruded firelog, the segments are packed longitudinally. While longitudinal packing may yield a physically stable firelog, it does not yield a firelog with as efficient burn characteristics as in the present invention.

In the Applicant's invention, the segments are compressed circumferentially and are radially spun so that their surfaces face radially outward. As a result, there are in effect multiple layers of segments that fall away from the firelog when they burn. As the segments are heated, they expand and combustion air enters through the edges into the corrugations to promote combustion. The result is increased efficiency and effectiveness as a firelog material. None of the references of record, singly or in combination, teach, suggest or provide motivation or incentive for a firelog having such a configuration as recited in the Applicant's amended claims.

Nor do the references of record teach, suggest or provide motivation or incentive for the elements of the Applicant's claims discussed above in combination with any of the following other elements recited in various of the amended claims:

- (a) the segments are adhered together in a generally interlocking planar configuration; or
- (b) the segments open or expand with heat when burned and the corrugations in the segments channel oxygen throughout the segments when the segments open or expand with heat and burn.

These additional elements found in certain of the amended claims further define characteristics of the Applicant's firelog that clearly distinguish it over conventional artificial firelogs.

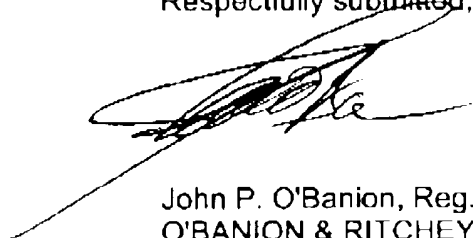
3. Conclusion.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

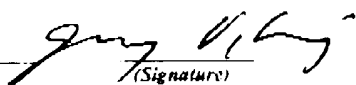
The Applicant also respectfully requests a telephone interview with the Examiner in the event that there are questions regarding this response, or if the next action on the merits is not an allowance of all pending claims.

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Respectfully submitted,



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<b>CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION BY FACSIMILE (37 CFR 1.8)</b>			Docket No
Applicant(s): <b>GREGORY J. PETERSON; GARY M. FLINT</b>			<b>FUT5024.05A</b>
Serial No <b>09/849,508</b>	Filing Date <b>05/04/2001</b>	Examiner <b>JOHNSON, JERRY D.</b>	Group Art Unit <b>1764</b>
Invention: <b>FIRESTARTER MATERIAL AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURE</b>			
<p>I hereby certify that this <u>Amendment (Page 1 thru 9)</u> (Identify type of correspondence)</p> <p>is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (Fax. No. <u>703-872-9310</u>)</p> <p>on <u>06/10/03</u> (Date)</p> <p><u>Jerry V. King</u> (Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate)</p> <p><u></u> (Signature)</p> <p>Note: Each paper must have its own certificate of mailing.</p>			

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